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Newsletter

Number 10

30 April 2010



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

.. Thanks to Marcelle & SKIDS for cleaning the Canteen over the holidays. It has been so spotless since SKIDS have been involved.

.. To those parents who were going to help out with this week's Rippa Rugby Tournament.

People of the week

.. Congratulations to the following students who received trophies for their respective teams at the Kamo Cricket Club Prizegiving on Sunday:

Best Batsmen: Ethan, Tyrone

Best Bowlers: James, Paul

Most Improved: Charlie, Hayden.

Amy Rose & Sarah who attended the ANZAC Dawn Service with Kamo Girls' Brigade.

Orderliness Virtue

Please continue your work on the orderliness virtue. Support material was sent home last week to guide your discussions at home. Please re-visit this topic from time to time (lots of little references better than lengthy discussions), praise examples of orderliness in your children's lives and let us know so we can inspire others through the newsletter. To make things even easier for you, children have a virtues task each week / fortnight listed in their homework books.. so have a look at what they (or their teacher) have decided to focus on. Good luck and remember to keep us in the picture.

Working Bee

A working bee will be held **9:00 to 12:00 on Sunday 16 May** to tidy up a few areas around the school. If you can possibly spend **an hour or three** helping out please pencil in this date. Tasks involve clearing of gutters, cleaning the sandpit, trimming of bushes, some planting, repairs to our retaining wall, a wee bit of touch up painting, and other smallish tasks. If we have a goodly number of helpers it will be amazing what can be achieved. If you have been wanting to lend a hand in some way, and have not managed to commit yet, this could be your opportunity. Please bring with you any tools you have which might assist in the completion of these tasks. Thanks in anticipation.

think... SOLD!

think yellow,
think...

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A chance to win house points - water bottles

With the body over 75% water - and the brain even more - hydration is essential for life and for effective learning. All children with a water bottle on their desk each day next week (containing water only) will earn 20 pts each for their house for each of these days. So .. kids .. be in to win! Will announce the winning house at the end of next week.

Term Contributions / Activity Fees

Those parents who opted for term payment of the above fees will have received a request for payment today. If you have not received this, please check your child's bag or give the office a call. If you would like to pay by direct credit please contact Helen. Please contact Kevin if you want to confidentially discuss alternative payment arrangements.

Your financial support of the school is much appreciated and helps to plug the significant funding shortfall we face as a high decile school. We promise to put this money to good use and for the benefit of as many children as possible.

Survey of future enrolments

Last term families received a form requesting information on future enrolments. We asked parents to advise of pre-schoolers yet to be enrolled, or of families with only pre-schoolers of whom we may not be aware. This information is important as it helps us to ensure the school is appropriately resourced in advance of these children arriving - as opposed to playing continual catch-up. If you did not receive one of these forms, and have some information which might assist in this process, we have attached a further copy of this form at the bottom of this newsletter. You could also pass this on to families who do not receive the newsletter if you suspect they may have children coming our way. If you have already responded thanks for your response - feel free to disregard this further request.

PAT Maths Analysis Sheets (children years 4 to 8)

Over the next few days your child (years 4 to 8) will bring home a detailed analysis of their recent maths PAT results. This analysis shows their areas of strength and weakness, how their results compare with those nationally, as well as the relative difficult level of the questions. Hopefully, by the time you receive this, your child will be trained to explain and interpret these results, and will be able to discuss their plan for rectifying areas of "skills deficit". This document is to be shared with you at home before return to school. Teachers will ensure these are kept in a prominent place throughout the year so that children can refer to these often when planning their way forward and when monitoring their progress. Some teachers will have these glued into books and so you will also see these from time to time. Please let your child lead these discussions as it is important that they take responsibility for planning aspects of their learning. At mid year interviews (28 and 29 June) teachers will give you impressions of performance to that point and then again after this test is re-sat in November. Any problems interpreting results please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or to drop by the office.

International Schools Competitions

A reminder that test dates are as follows - English Exam - 3 August, Maths Exam - 17 August. Test practice papers will be issued towards the end of this term. Experience suggests that a period of around 4 weeks preparation is ideal for most children - starting too soon can result in fatigue and lack of interest - starting too late speaks for itself. A reminder also that those children sitting the science exam (9 June) are responsible for their own preparation although we will supervise the test and send these in for you.

Homework

A special thanks to those parents who have worked so diligently to ensure that homework routines are in place - including a set time and place. If there are any questions about homework please contact your child's teacher. You are also welcome to send a note to school if things are a bit busy at home and you would like your child exempt for a specified period (saves the teacher time and stress checking up). Remember also that homework is generally not for extension. It is best used for the purpose of consolidation thus freeing class time for new learning. We are starting a new spelling programme and so please be patient while this beds down.

Homework for those children in the Innovation Class

For children in this class it is especially important to keep up with homework routines as this frees time for the innovation subjects and enables extension to take place at school. Parents who requested no homework for term 1 might like to revisit this decision and to contact Mrs Witte within the next week or two.

Request from Room 8

Before you know it Calf Club will soon be upon us. Room 8 needs your help so if you have any of the items listed below could you please please please leave them at the office or take them to Room 8

- Wool, Stockings/Panty Hose/ Clean empty jars with lids (normal jam jar size). Thank you.

Term Overviews

Over the next couple of weeks we will be sending term overviews out with the newsletter. These show major units of work for your child this term and are an invitation for you to share your talents with us .. so .. become involved as much as inclination, skill and time permit. Also gives you a useful counter when your child gets home and tells you they didn't do much at school today!

Term Headlice Inspection - Friday 7 May 2010

If you are able to assist with this term's inspection please phone Donna Cates in the office. In the meantime parents are asked to check children's hair weekly and to take prompt action in the event of infestation.

Bible in Schools Programme

If your child was placed in a Bible in Schools class and they should not have been please let us know - this will not have been intentional. If your child is a non-attender and you have thought of an area you would especially like them to work on during this time please contact their teacher. We will see that they are supervised and supported while they work on these tasks.

20 Hour famine

Year 6 to 8 children interested in participating in this year's famine received consent forms today. When the consents are returned to the office, sponsor booklets will be issued. Participation is at the discretion of parents and so please don't feel under any pressure.

Mobile Ear Clinic

Next outside Bush Rd Medical centre Tuesday 11 May - 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Appointments not necessary.

School Banking

Don't forget to bank your savings regularly in the Kashin box in the School Office.

Community Notices

For Sale - Soccer Boots, size 11 Black and Red. Good condition. Ph Lisa Verevis on 4335155.

For Sale - Guinea Fowl \$15 each. Contact Sue on 4335606

Situation Vacant- Farm hand wanted. 680 spring calving cows. 50 bale rotary. ACRs. Rostered time off. 3 other full time staff members. Milking, general farm duties and assist with calf rearing. 9kms from school (Otakairangi Rd). Start early July end mid January. Possible relief milking following end date. Ph Greig or Paula Powell 433 5141.

Lighthouse - The Bad Taste Party. Dress up in your bad taste outfit and be in to win. Dancing, crazy games, prizes, food. \$2 per person. Friday 7 May, 6pm - 8pm, Trinity Uniting Church. Contact Jennie Clarke 435 3890 or Liz Gardiner 021 325 671.

Dance Inc Northland offering limited places in ballet, jazz, contemporary, musical theatre and tap dancing. For ages 2 yrs and over. Ph 4308806 or email danceincnorthland@gmail.com.

Board Election

Voting papers were posted this week. If you do not receive a copy in the next few days, please contact Donna Cates in the Office early next week. Polling day is 7 May but votes can be dropped to the office (red ballot box) at any time prior to this date. The new board takes office 14 May.

SKIDS

The operators of our After School Care Programme have asked us to distribute the questionnaire attached to this newsletter. The information you provide will help them to configure their services in a way which best meets the needs of users (and potential users). Please complete this form and return it to school next week. Thanks!

Upper Carpark

Thank you to those parents who stagger arrival time to reduce congestion in the upper carpark (if you **do not** have 5 year olds we recommend pick up at around 3:05-3:10). Remember that if you are dropping off, or picking up, to **please pull to the side and move away as promptly as you safely can. If you have to wait please be patient.** The morning can be a very busy time for all parents and so patience is a great example to set for the children. We want every visitor to our school to leave happier than when they arrived and so please help us to achieve this.

Shave for a Cure 2010

One week ago today my sister and I shaved our heads to raise money for the Leukaemia and Blood Foundation. Taking part in the Shave was a lot more emotional than I thought it would be. Thanks to the children, families and staff of Matarau School your kind donations raised \$345.10. Once again thank you so much. Samantha Bevin.

Final thought

This year I am teaching grammar in one of our senior classes. Before a recent test I explained to the class that the students should apply themselves diligently, as areas of deficit would guarantee some all expenses paid sessions with me at lunch time as we work to close the gaps. One thoughtful student reflected for a moment and responded "Would breakfast be included?" - Perhaps I should consider this.

**Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them**

Regards
Kevin Trewhella
PRINCIPAL

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Request for enrolment information

For those who have not already returned this form (initially sent out 15 March). If already sent in please disregard.

Name of family

Address

Phone Number

We live within the Matarau School in Zone (please circle) YES NO
(see website www.matarau.school.nz or contact the school office for zone information)

Name of child(ren) yet to enrol	D.O.B.